

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation or)	
)	ORDER OF
the Educator Certificate of)	
)	REVOCATION
Denise M. Hopkins)	
)	
Certificate 186136)	
)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this certificate revocation matter on January 11, 2005. On December 1, 2004, the South Carolina Department of Education (Department) sent Denise M. Hopkins a notice of her right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina educator certificate number 186136 on the grounds of unprofessional conduct. Ms. Hopkins notified the Department by a letter received December 14, 2004, that she wished to waive her right to a hearing in the matter. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to revoke Ms. Hopkins's teaching certificate 186136.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Hopkins holds a valid South Carolina certificate with over six years of teaching experience. She was under contract with York County School District Two for the 2004-05 school year assigned to Kinard Elementary School. Ms. Hopkins resigned from her employment on September 23, 2004, following allegations that she repeatedly engaged in inappropriate treatment of a student.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

“The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (1991). Just cause includes “Unprofessional conduct...and...Evident unfitness for position for which employed”. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). The State Board finds that there is just cause to revoke Ms. Hopkins’s certificate 186136.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: _____

Paul M. Forrester

Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
January 11, 2005